

Your accomplishments represent your dedication and commitment to achieving your goals, and I am proud of you. The skills you have learned and the discipline you have developed will benefit you greatly.

I am honored to represent you in the United States House of Representatives. I hope you will continue your record of service and success. My best wishes for a bright future!

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH RECONCILIATION TAX ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this conference report. This tax cut is a tragedy. It does not create jobs, it does not grow the economy, and the only thing it grows is the deficit.

What we see here today is the unraveling of fiscal responsibility. It began in the White House with the President's reckless, irresponsible proposal, and it continues with the Republicans in the Congress. By promoting his unnecessary, unfair, and fiscally unsound tax cut, President Bush has created a tax cutting frenzy among Congressional Republicans.

The result is this conference report—and a bill to put our children \$1 trillion in debt. That is not leadership. I have asked many times, where have all the Republican deficit hawks gone? They are an endangered species. Democrats still believe in fiscal responsibility, and we believe that raiding Social Security and saddling our children and grandchildren with enormous debt is wrong. If the Republicans had wanted to have a proposal that would grow the economy, focus on the middle class, create jobs and be fiscally sound, they could have done so. They chose not to.

The Democratic plan, which we were not allowed to vote on, creates 1 million new jobs this year without adding one penny to the deficit. It puts money in the hands of people who need it and will spend it, injecting demand into the economy and creating jobs this year. But instead, Republicans have chosen to add \$1 trillion in debt—shortchanging education, homeland security, healthcare and other vital needs. The list of missed opportunities goes on and on. That is not leadership.

Investing in education—early childhood education, K through 12, higher education, postgraduate education, lifetime learning—does more to grow the economy than any tax cut you can name. But to accommodate tax breaks for those who need it least, the Republican budget cuts \$168 billion from domestic programs, including education, over the next decade. Students are asked to sacrifice, seniors are asked to sacrifice, first responders are asked to sacrifice, middle class families are asked to sacrifice—all so that the average millionaire can get a tax cut of \$93,500. That is not leadership.

And, in order to squeeze more tax breaks for the wealthy into this bill, Republicans have included provisions that end the few middle-class tax cuts they once supported. Both the child tax credit and elimination of the marriage penalty end in 2005—leaving middle-class

Americans with a tax increase in 2006. A future Congress will be forced to either increase taxes or add billions to our spiraling debt just as the Baby Boomers begin retiring. The middle class is asked to subsidize the wealthy. That is not right. That is not leadership.

These gimmicks hide the true cost of this tax cut, and they are not fair to middle-class Americans. The great irony of all this is that if all the Republicans want to do is to put money in the pockets of wealthy people, then nothing works better than sound, fiscally responsible policies. Wealthy Americans did better in the 1990's than at any other time. But Republicans have failed to build upon the economic successes of the Clinton Administration. Their economic record is a dismal failure.

The first two years of the Bush Administration have seen a loss of 2.8 million jobs—the worst record of job creation of any President since World War II. No job creation whatsoever—job loss. No modern President has had a record of that kind. And since President Bush took office, we have seen a surplus of \$5.6 trillion turn into a deficit of over \$2 trillion—and growing. A swing of \$7.6 trillion. So now what do they want to do? Repeat the same economic policies that got us into this hole to begin with, digging the hole even deeper. That is not leadership.

President Bush and Republicans in Congress never miss an opportunity to do what is right for average Americans. Tonight, instead of investing in our children, we are indebting them. We are mortgaging their futures for a tax break that benefits those who need it least, the wealthiest in our country. And we are doing so at the expense of our opportunity to invest further in the education of our children. Vote no on the conference report. Vote no on fiscal irresponsibility. Vote no on a reckless plan that will take our country in the wrong direction.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH RECONCILIATION TAX ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today, we have two million American families struggling with persistent unemployment, we have a Treasury which has asked to increase its debt by an amount bigger than the entire federal debt of 1980, and a central bank desiring yet another interest rate slash to ward off deflation. In the eye of this perfect storm, this fiscal catastrophe, we have the Republican answer to everything: cut more taxes.

This \$350 billion bill is rife with uncertainty, as the individual and family tax breaks are afflicted with two-year expirations. While the bill won't inspire much confidence in our economy, it will inspire confidence and certainty that our war on tax code complexity has officially been lost.

Along with fiscal sanity, middle-income families have been tossed overboard in this Republican tax bill as relief from the alternative minimum tax was cut to less than the puny amount either chamber originally provided. Hard as it is to believe—the conference agree-

ment before us today provides even less relief for middle-income taxpayers from the AMT than either the House or Senate bill provided, and for a shorter period of time!

When this bill was originally before the House, the Republican Majority bragged about the 10 million American families saved from higher taxes by their temporary AMT fix. But under the deal we are voting on today, 2005 will bring a tax increase for those 10 million families. Let me repeat that, at the end of next year, 10 million more American families will actually see a tax increase under this bill.

As the former Bush aide now heading the CBO stated, "At the current pace, the AMT is on track to replace the ordinary income tax for many Americans. The sheer number of taxpayers who are or will be touched by the AMT speaks volumes about the pressure on lawmakers to address the problem." Apparently, that pressure was shrugged off by the Republican leaders, and AMT has been pushed off, yet again, to another day.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me object to House Republican leaders insistence in refusing any reasonable revenue offsets. With corporate expatriates dodging \$5 billion in US taxes by running offshore, it simply defies logic not to collect this money in order to avoid digging our deficit hole deeper.

By refusing to accept the modest Senate language to close the Bermuda loophole, the House Republicans have sanctioned this corporate misbehavior of choosing profits over patriotism.

I urge my colleagues to vote down this bill.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we have just concluded a three-year project funded by HRSA (93-912A). This program was implemented under the umbrella of Project Partnership, the community outreach arm of the Graduate Program in Physical Therapy at North Georgia College and State University. The project was directed by Ms. Charlene L. Hudson and Dr. Lynda D. Woodruff. Our local, state and federal legislators supported this competitive grant.

The purpose of this grant was to bring a variety of services, adaptive equipment and healthcare resources to the population of rural elderly in three contiguous counties: Lumpkin, Hall and Dawson. Healthcare services for the vast majority of these citizens are severely challenged, poorly funded, and extraordinarily inaccessible. The physical therapy faculty, the nurse practitioner faculty, and more than 100 graduate students in these two programs joined forces to provide in excess of 5,000 formal visits/interactions to rural citizens whose quality of health and quality of life have been compromised.

The project was able to supercede its initial goals, standards for operations, and complete programmatic activities fluidly. However, the majority of our requests forwarded to us were far beyond the scope of our project. We somewhat anticipated this phenomenon as a result of our community needs assessment which occurred during the planning phase for the grant application. What we did not anticipate

was a decline in the sparse services available. For example, our three counties have lost home modification resources, rural transportation, and a large number of Medicaid friendly clinical services. This simply means that there is still a severe level of unmet need in our rural region.

We have found a few sources to minimally sustain this project. The network which we initiated in 1995 has matured today to include the State Office of Rural Health, federally funded community health center, State Area Agency on Aging, 9th District Social Services and our University. We are confident that this model is unique and we will strive to share our findings through HRSA publications.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1588) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes,

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank Chairman HUNTER, for yielding me this time and thank you for including my language in your en-bloc amendment.

Mr. Chairman, the horrific events of September 11th reminded us all of the importance of protecting our Nation and its people. Unfortunately, these emerging terrorist threats will continue to be an issue for many years to come.

National homeland defense must be our highest priority. We must utilize the unique capabilities and expertise of all agencies in this effort, including the Department of Defense.

The military's mission has been fundamentally changed by the new homeland defense requirements. This mission change has been significant enough to warrant the creation of another major combatant command—Northern Command—to be responsible for national homeland defense.

We must identify exactly what the Department of Defense needs to execute this vital mission. Major steps are already being taken in this area. However, it is essential that we continue to closely examine what is needed to protect America during this dangerous time. Military construction to support the homeland defense mission is an integral part of the picture.

Homeland defense has not been traditionally used as a determining factor in the funding of MILCON projects. I remain concerned that we do not evaluate our military construction needs in light of the new homeland defense mission. This amendment will ensure that all MILCON projects, regardless of when submitted, be evaluated in part for their contribution to the homeland defense mission.

Postponing needed military construction required for homeland defense is something we cannot afford to do.

We need to make homeland defense one of the principle criteria for all future military con-

struction programs. For example, in my district, the 177th Fighter Wing has been worldwide-deployable, but is now focused on homeland defense.

NORAD and NORTHCOM have given this wing responsibility for 24-hour alert and combat air patrol along the mid-Atlantic, including responsibility for cap missions over New York City and Washington, DC.

Because of this new 24-hour alert site status, the wing's needs have changed. Their military construction requirements have changed and this amendment will ensure the MILCON process recognizes this trend nationwide.

I encourage you to vote for this amendment to help preserve our homeland defense. Finally, I join with you to commend the men and women of our Nation's Armed Forces for service and thank them for securing the freedom we all enjoy.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HERALD-CITIZEN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th year of existence of The Herald-Citizen of Cookeville, Tennessee, an integral part of the community and a reliable source of news for Putnam County and the Upper Cumberland region.

The first edition of this Middle Tennessee newspaper was published on February 11, 1903, by Elmer Wirt and his son, Ralph. During the next century, this newspaper kept Cookeville well-informed and evolved into an award-winning daily publication. From a small town of barely 600 people in 1903 to a thriving Upper Cumberland community of about 25,000 residents today, Cookeville has depended on The Herald-Citizen for unbiased news coverage.

Many changes have occurred at the newspaper during the past century. As the community grew and prospered, so did The Herald Citizen. Elmer Wirt and his son printed the first edition on a small flatbed press that sat on top of a table, with the type set by hand. C. Lee Walls Sr. and his son, C. Lee Walls Jr., now print the newspaper on a modern, computerized press weighing many tons.

Although many changes have occurred at the newspaper and to the community, one thing remains certain: The Herald-Citizen's commitment to fair and honest news coverage. Cookeville and the surrounding communities of Putnam County have benefitted tremendously from the hard work and dedication of the newspaper and its employees over the years. I congratulate the newspaper's success and am sure the next 100 years of publication will be just as exciting and rewarding as the first 100 years.

HONORING GUSTAVUS EVANSEN

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to mention an exem-

plary Staten Islander, Mr. Gustavus Evansen. He embodies the hard work and determination that characterizes the American Dream.

In 1923, at the age of 17, Gus Evansen emigrated to the United States, along with the rest of his family. They joined his father, Jorgen, who had traveled here to lay the foundations of a stable life for the family in 1917. He automatically began to work alongside his father at the Electric Launch Company, or Elco, in Bayonne, New Jersey, practicing the same shipbuilding trade his father had practiced in their homeland of Denmark. He and his father worked out of their own garage on nights and weekends to make ends meet during the Depression.

Mr. Evansen was promoted to foreman of the hull-building department in 1939, and continued to work for the next 6 years on the 399 PT-boats that Elco made for our government's use in the Second World War. After the war, as the Elco Company scrambled for work while the government contracts waned, Mr. Evansen lost his job when Elco closed down for good in 1949. He wasted no time in beginning a new career with the U.S. Coast Guard. At the age of 70, after 25 years building workboats on Governor's Island, and after rising from the rank of third-class boatbuilder to assistant foreman, Gus Evansen finally retired.

In 1930, he had married his childhood sweetheart, Bergit Knutsen who, with her family, had also emigrated from Denmark. They were together for 71 years until her death. Gus is currently 96 years old, and is enjoying his hard-earned retirement in Staten Island, New York. He has two daughters, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Mr. Evansen has led the life of a model citizen, has worked hard to make a life for his family, and is the true embodiment of the American Dream.

Mr. Evansen, thank you for being a model citizen, and a proud Staten Islander.

HONORING JAKE FANNON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jake Fannon posthumously for his military accomplishments and years of service to our country. He fought in both World War II and the Korean War, and overcame the countless injuries to continue his service.

In 1941, Jake enlisted in the U.S. Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and began his basic infantry training at Camp Roberts in California. He was assigned to the 813th combat engineers in Alaska where he was wounded in duty. He was a part of the 'C' Company 15th Regiment 1st Infantry Division and was injured during the first wave of the Normandy Invasion (D-Day). Later that year he joined the 78th Infantry Division in Germany where he served in combat until the end of the war. One year later, Jake was sent overseas to Australia as part of the 572nd Military Police, afterwards going to Korea. He then served at Fort Benning, Georgia as a paratrooper. After recovering from injuries sustained during one of his jumps, he was sent to the front lines in Korea and was hit on the third day causing